

Rotuman

Multivaluation @ Frankfurt

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1 Language Information

- Source: Vamarasi (2002)
- Glottlog: <http://glottolog.org/resource/languoid/id/rotu1241>
- ISO-identifier: rtm
- Speakers:
- Location: Fiji
- Geneology: Austronesian > Malayo-Polynesian > Central-Eastern Malayo-Polynesian > Eastern Malayo-Polynesian > Oceanic > Central Pacific linkage > Rotuman

2 Nominal Morphology

The noun is uninflected for number. Definite plurality is indicated with the long form of the noun, and indefinite plurality is shown by the short form of it.

3 Verbal Morphology

The verb in the Rotuman language has a singular, a dual, and a plural form. There is also a distinction between inclusive and exclusive in first person dual and plural.

4 Conjunction

Phrases and clauses are coordinated with the conjunctions *ma(ne)* and *ka(ne)*. The first marks a comitative relationship, the latter marks simultaneous actions ('while'), and can have the meaning of 'but' too.

- (1) taunœ? ta voeh ma, ma ŋou la?
meeting DEF finish and and 1s go
'As soon as the meeting was over, I went.' [Vamarasi, 2002, p. 47]

- (2) *ŋou fæe-fæeaŋ se irirsa, ka faa ta leu-m*
 1s RED-speak to 3PL and man DEF come-DIR
 'I was speaking to them when the man came.' [Vamarasi, 2002, p. 47]
- (3) *ŋou neʔneʔ ʔe ʔon mumua, ka ŋou ʔafʔaf ʔe ʔon ʔi-ʔi.*
 1s strong at 3s.POS first but 1s sick at 3s.POS RED-now
 'I was strong before, but I am weak now.' [Vamarasi, 2002, p. 47]

5 Disjunction

The marker of disjunction is *ne* 'or'.

- (4) *ka ʔæe ʔih ne ʔiŋke.*
 Q 2s invite or not
 'Are you invited or not ?' [Vamarasi, 2002, p. 47]

6 Prepositions

Rotuman has few prepositions, each of which has a range of meanings.

1. *ʔe* 'at', 'from', 'with' (instrumental), 'for'
2. *se* 'to', 'about'
3. *ma* 'with' (comitative)
4. *ne* 'in', 'of', 'by'
5. *ʔe reko/ poo ʔe* 'because of'
6. *ʔe rer ne* 'on top of'

References

Vamarasi, Marit (2002). *Rotuman*. München: Lincom Europa.